



Dedicated to preserving, promoting, and sharing the literature, art, and culture of equestrian, angling, and field sports

NATIONAL SPORTING LIBRARY & MUSEUM

SPRING/SUMMER 2021

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



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*TUCKER SMITH:
A CELEBRATION OF NATURE*

WELCOMING NEW BOARD
MEMBER ALEX VOGEL

FIELD NOTES | WALTER MATIA

2021 POLO CLASSIC

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

If you had asked me a year ago where I thought the NSLM would be today, I would not have had a clear answer for you. By June of 2020 things were still very uncertain; the Museum was closed to the public, staff was working remotely, and no one had any idea when the world would return to normal. Bearing this in mind makes our position today so much more poignant. We continue to expand our opening hours in the Museum and are thrilled to have begun once again to host in-person events, while the virtual programs we pioneered during the closure remain popular and help us reach an even wider audience.

Currently on view is *Tucker Smith: A Celebration of Nature*, an exhibition featuring more than 80 oil paintings by contemporary wildlife artist Tucker Smith. Organized by the National Museum of Wildlife Art of the United States in Jackson Hole, WY, the show is impressive in both scale and effect. Our next exhibition, *Field Notes | Walter Matia* opening June 18, is the NSLM's first indoor/outdoor exhibit. Matia's sculpture is equally at home in the galleries as it is in our gardens, making this show a unique opportunity to engage visitors both inside and out, as well as take advantage of our beautiful campus.

This summer we are looking forward to expanding our focus on angling as a pillar of our mission with a variety of programming related to fly-fishing. The International Fly-Fishing Film Festival was first screened at the beginning of June, another in-person screening will be on August 28, and a virtual screening is planned for July 15. We will also be hosting "Craft Beers and Crafting Flies" with master fly-tier Jim Bensinger on August 21.

Our 2021 Polo Classic presented by MARS Equestrian™ will be taking place on Sunday, September 12. Nacho Figueras and his son, Hilario, will be returning to the field in the NSLM's sole fundraising event. This summer we are also thrilled to be hosting our Open Late concerts in July and August and hope to see you at this free community event full of great live music and fun kids activities.

Please join me in welcoming Alex Vogel to the Board of Directors. An avid foxhunter and resident of nearby Upperville, Alex's passion for sporting culture and local history will be a great asset to our organization. We look forward to working with him in the years to come.

On behalf of all of us here at the NSLM, I would like to express our gratitude to our generous friends and supporters who helped us weather the challenges of the past year. We are so thankful for the enthusiasm of our wonderful community. I invite you to stop by the NSLM to see all the exciting work your support makes possible. We look forward to seeing you on campus soon!

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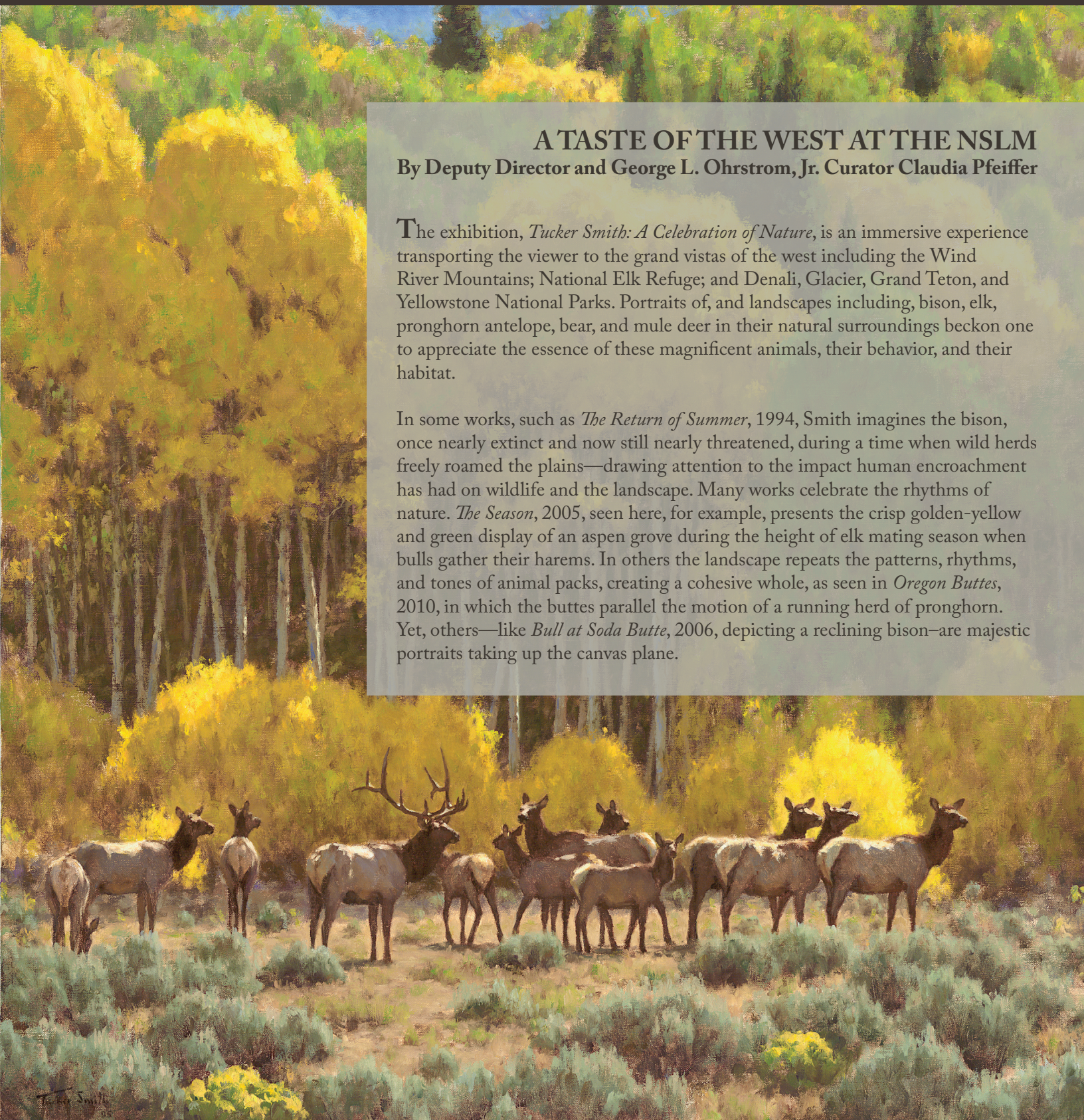
Tucker Smith: A Celebration of Nature

A TASTE OF THE WEST AT THE NSLM

By Deputy Director and George L. Ohrstrom, Jr. Curator Claudia Pfeiffer

The exhibition, *Tucker Smith: A Celebration of Nature*, is an immersive experience transporting the viewer to the grand vistas of the west including the Wind River Mountains; National Elk Refuge; and Denali, Glacier, Grand Teton, and Yellowstone National Parks. Portraits of, and landscapes including, bison, elk, pronghorn antelope, bear, and mule deer in their natural surroundings beckon one to appreciate the essence of these magnificent animals, their behavior, and their habitat.

In some works, such as *The Return of Summer*, 1994, Smith imagines the bison, once nearly extinct and now still nearly threatened, during a time when wild herds freely roamed the plains—drawing attention to the impact human encroachment has had on wildlife and the landscape. Many works celebrate the rhythms of nature. *The Season*, 2005, seen here, for example, presents the crisp golden-yellow and green display of an aspen grove during the height of elk mating season when bulls gather their harems. In others the landscape repeats the patterns, rhythms, and tones of animal packs, creating a cohesive whole, as seen in *Oregon Buttes*, 2010, in which the buttes parallel the motion of a running herd of pronghorn. Yet, others—like *Bull at Soda Butte*, 2006, depicting a reclining bison—are majestic portraits taking up the canvas plane.



Smith's painting style is authentic and informed by a lifetime of observation and experience. He, fascinatingly, majored in mathematics and minored in art at the University of Wyoming and was a computer analyst until 1971 when he switched professions to painting full time at the age of thirty-one. The combination of his innate analytical approach to perspective and painterly expression give a vitality to his work that resonates with those who have experienced these often iconic and identifiable places. "Wow. It looks just like that!" is a phrase that regularly echoes through the galleries as visitors take in the depictions of animals, big skies, swashes of sagebrush, mountain peaks, and other varied landforms.

The exhibition of 86 works created between 1976 and 2020 offer a retrospective view of Smith's consistency and maturity as a painter profoundly motivated to record his sensory experiences in the moment—the quality of light, weather conditions, and the reflective and refractive textures of the organic and static surfaces around him. Instead of highlighting the focal points of his paintings framed against Impressionistic treatments, he instead introduces an authentic haze over the distant mountains or a dewy mist to guide the viewer, purposeful choices and composites of real-life arranged into each composition. His full use of fore-, middle-, and background in this way recreates a continuous depth of field approaching the subtleties of what the human

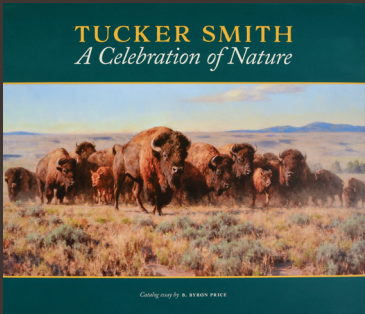
eye is able to discern, all in an aesthetically pleasing balance. Smith's technique is grounded in the legwork of drawing sketches and painting field studies en plein air, the latter experience being critical to capturing the essence of perspective points, colors, weather, light, and shadow. These materials produced in the field serve as a guide in his studio beyond what photographs are able to record.



The deep connection to his subjects Smith captures is irrefutable. He has traversed the rock scramble, driven the cattle, explored the backcountry, and lived in the landscape. The artist has observed and taken inspiration from the work of his predecessors in art museums and traveled in the footsteps they walked. To that point, Smith took his first pack trip with outfitter Irv Lozier, the grandson of the outfitter of Carl



*The artist on his horse, Blue, at home in the Wind River Range.
Image courtesy of Tucker Smith*



TUCKER SMITH
A Celebration of Nature

Exhibition Catalogues

\$35

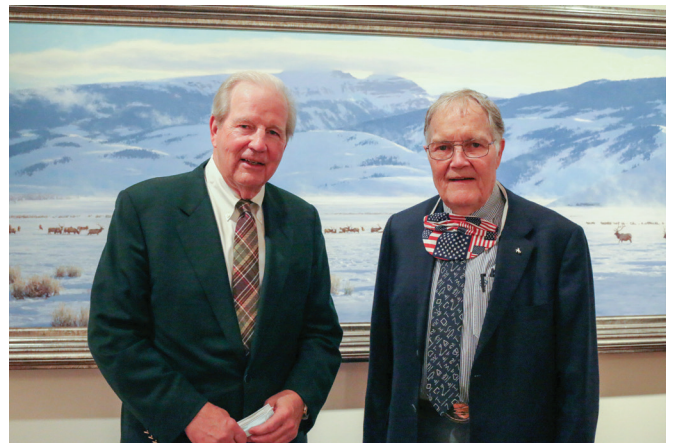
Purchase Online or In-Person



Rungius, to find the famed 19th century artist's painting spots. This dedication is evident in every brush stroke.

The magnitude of Smith's accomplishments over the past almost fifty years is showcased throughout the exhibition organized by the National Museum of Wildlife Art of the United States in Jackson Hole, Wyoming and guest-curated by B. Byron Price, Director of Charles M. Russell Center for the Study of Art of the American West, University of Oklahoma. Price, a western scholar of four decades, wrote the essay for the accompanying catalogue. The NSLM was able to host a virtual program on April 9 with Smith in Wyoming and Price in Oklahoma. It was invaluable discussion to hear Smith's commentary on his life's work. Dr. Manuel Johnson, the NSLM's Chairman, noted at the end of the presentation, "We are so privileged and excited about sponsoring the exhibition and having people in the East have access to [Tucker Smith's] work." The evening was a great success and is another example of finding creative ways to share experiences. Making virtual programming available in addition to in-person interactions will be a model for NSLM moving forward.

We are grateful for the generosity of The Manuel & Mary Johnson Foundation which made the exhibition at the NSLM possible. Open through August 22, 2021, the NSLM is the third exhibition venue; it will then travel to its final venue at the Booth Museum in Georgia. We have expanded ticketed access to the Museum and plan to open more availability throughout the summer months. Please check for and book dates and times at www.NationalSporting.org. 🐾



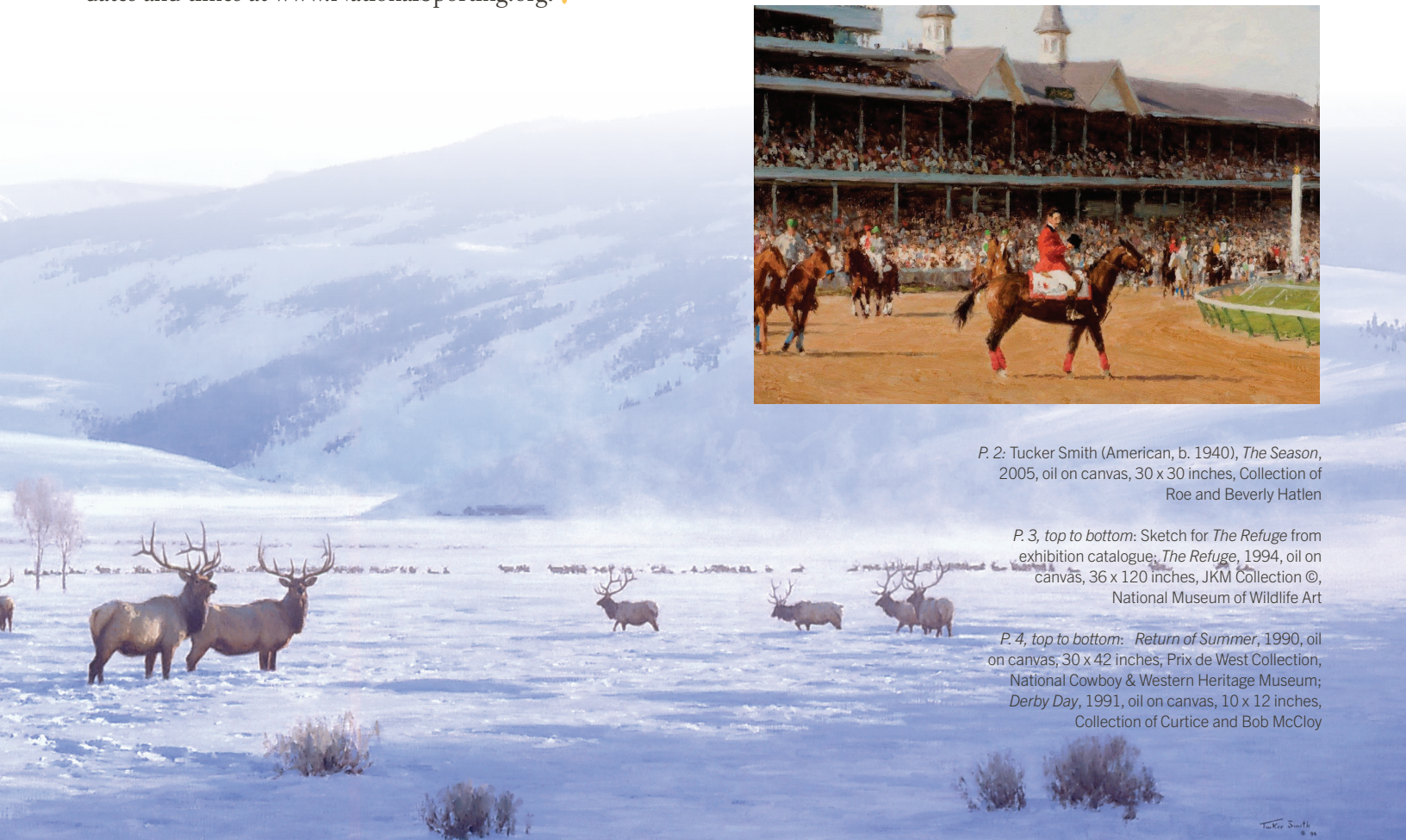
Dr. Manuel Johnson, left, with artist Tucker Smith

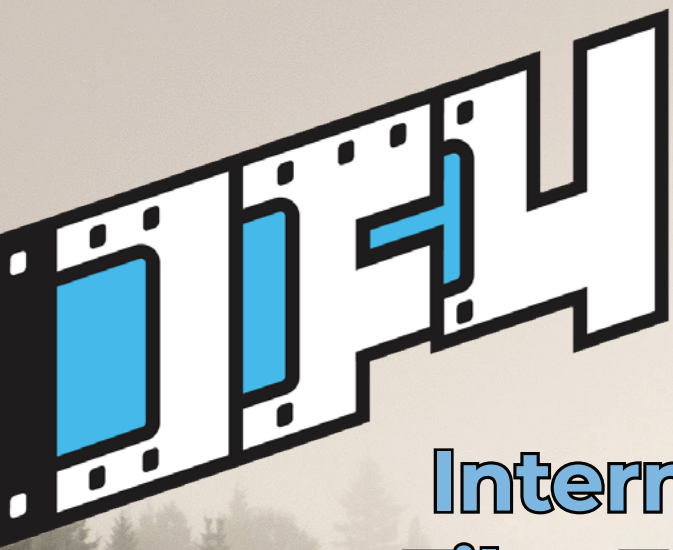


*P. 2: Tucker Smith (American, b. 1940), *The Season*, 2005, oil on canvas, 30 x 30 inches, Collection of Roe and Beverly Hatlen*

*P. 3, top to bottom: Sketch for *The Refuge* from exhibition catalogue; *The Refuge*, 1994, oil on canvas, 36 x 120 inches, JKM Collection ©, National Museum of Wildlife Art*

*P. 4, top to bottom: *Return of Summer*, 1990, oil on canvas, 30 x 42 inches, Prix de West Collection, National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum; *Derby Day*, 1991, oil on canvas, 10 x 12 inches, Collection of Curtice and Bob McCloy*





International Fly-Fishing Film Festival® at the NSLM

The International Fly Fishing Film Festival® consists of short and feature length films, produced by professional filmmakers from all corners of the globe, showcasing the passion, lifestyle and culture of fly-fishing. The films at this popular event are capturing the attention of anglers around the world. IF4™ contains exclusive content and is a must see experience!

Brought to you in part by Orvis of Leesburg and Tysons Corner.

For information about this screening contact:
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To purchase tickets, visit NationalSporting.org

Saturday, August 28 at 6:00pm
Virtually Thursday, July 15 at 6:00pm

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NSLM Ladies' SHOOTING GROUP

The National Sporting Library & Museum has formed a Ladies' Shooting Group which meets regularly for lessons from instructor Isobel Ziluca at her facility in Upperville. Isobel picked up her first shotgun at the age of 50 and initially used sporting clays as a warm-up for bird hunting. She earned her instructor's certification with the National Sporting Clays Association in 2017. In 2018, Isobel was named to the Virginia State Team and has since been named to all five All-American teams, including all sub gauges and 12-gauge. Over the past several years, Isobel's students have gone on to win local, regional and national titles, with three students making All-American teams, and one lady student making two All-American teams.

Are you a member interested joining the Ladies' Shooting Group? NSLM members of all ages and levels are welcome! Contact Reid O'Connor, Director of Development, at (540) 687-6542 x35 or ROConnor@NationalSporting.org for more information. 🦋



Above: Members of the NSLM Ladies' Shooting Group with Hall-of-Famer Anthony Materese at M&M Hunting Preserve & Sporting Clays in New Jersey. Left: Terri Ferguson, right, takes aim as instructor Isobel Ziluca looks on.



SUPPORT THE GIFT SHOP

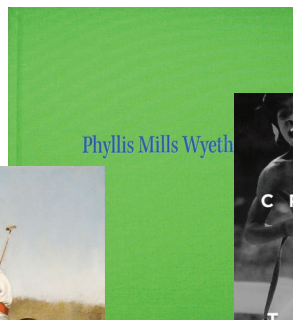
The NSLM gift shop is an extension of the mission to preserve, promote, and educate the public on the rich heritage and tradition of country pursuits and open space. Our online and on-site gift shop are where we can tell the story of sporting life through books and art with over 45 products available for purchase. From books and art catalogues to handmade silk scarves and puzzles, the gift shop has something for any sporting enthusiast or bibliophile in your life and is a great way to support the NSLM.

Don't forget that Members receive a 10% discount on all products!
Contact VPeacock@NationalSporting.org for the coupon code.

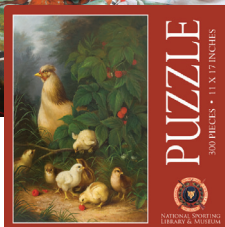
HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GIFT SHOP



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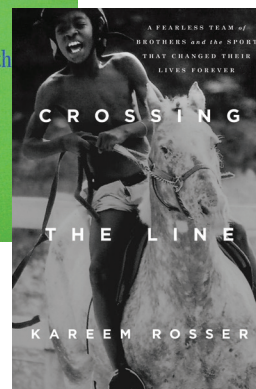
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\$20



\$1



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The National Sporting Library & Museum's 2021 Polo Classic presented by MARS Equestrian™ will take place on **Sunday, September 12** at Great Meadow in The Plains, VA.

We are thrilled to be returning to the traditional event format with tickets in the Founders' Pavilion, Tailgate, and General Admission areas. Thank you to all our sponsors and friends who made last year's event such a success. While 2020 had a scaled-back format due to COVID-19, we look forward to opening our Tailgate and General Admission to more guests this year. Tickets for the Founders' Pavilion are already sold out and a limited number of tailgates remain, so make sure to reserve your space quickly!

This event features the popular parade of the Orange County Hounds, as well as two top-tier polo matches: The Founders' Cup and The Mars Cup. Celebrity polo player, Nacho Figueras, will be returning to the Polo Classic field alongside his son, Hilario. Daymar Rosser, Ralph Lauren model and advocate for the Work to Ride Foundation in Philadelphia, will also be playing for his second consecutive year. A portion of the proceeds from the 2021 Polo Classic will be donated to Work to Ride in addition to local two local food banks, a new tradition begun in 2020.

As the NSLM's sole fundraising event each year, funds raised from the Polo Classic support educational program, community events, and exhibitions throughout the year. We hope you will join us on September 12 in support of the NSLM's mission for a fun and festive day of polo!

Many thanks to our committee: Co-Chairs Jacqueline B. Mars and Juliana May, and Members Anjela Carroll, Natalie M. Epstein, Rebekah Greenhill, Gertraud Hechl, Amy Kelly, and Catherine C. "Bundles" Murdock

For more information on ticket availability and pricing, please contact Reid O'Connor, Director of Development, at ROConnor@NationalSporting.org or (540) 687-6542 x35. 🐾



Recent Museum Acquisitions

Diana Reuter-Twining (American, b. 1951) is an American sculptor with a diverse artistic background. As a life-long rider and cutting horse competitor (western riding sport wrangling cattle), the athleticism and grace of equines have been a continual source of inspiration to her. In particular, there is *Maestro*, a friend's horse. The sculptor says of him, "to watch a 1,500 lb. horse perform movements which can only be described as ballet speaks to their allure."

At the crossroads of art, nature, and mathematics is *Maestro*. The horse, with its head in deep flexion, has one leg extended with his hoof on a sphere. Reuter-Twining discovered that, in this pose, *Maestro* proportionally represents the Golden Ratio, which is etched into the base as the Fibonacci spiral.

The Fibonacci spiral is one of the most recognized forms seen throughout the natural world. It reveals itself in how plants grow, and the number of petals on flowers. Because it is so ubiquitous in nature, the Fibonacci spiral was dubbed the "divine proportion" during the Renaissance.

Equipoise is an artistic analogy: that of the Dressage horse achieving perfect balance with a ballet dancer who has found her own stability. The two stand in eternal harmony. 🐾

-Lauren Kraut | Sr. Collections Manager & Registrar



Top: Diana Reuter-Twining (American, b. 1951), *Maestro* (detail), 2017, bronze on bronze base, 63 x 28 x 15 1/2 inches, Gift of the artist, 2021

Below: *Equipoise*, 2019, bronze on bronze base, 76 x 52 x 16 inches, Gift of the artist, 2021



Field Notes

Walter Matia

Deputy Director & George L. Ohrstrom, Jr. Curator Claudia Pfeiffer



An exciting indoor/outdoor bronze sculpture exhibition, *Field Notes | Walter Matia*, by contemporary artist Walter Matia, reflects the engaging artist's honed talent and thoughtful insights. His study of biology, early work as a taxidermist, successful career as a conservationist, and life-long drive to observe nature as a hunter-naturalist, inform his sculptures of wild and domesticated animals and bring them to life.

Seven large-scale works of wild turkeys, a pointer, a Peregrine Falcon, Green-winged Teal Ducks, Whooping Cranes, and a Great Blue Heron greet visitors throughout the NSLM's grounds. Two interior galleries continue with sculptures, bas reliefs, and a fire screen. These various bronzes depict sporting dogs and hounds, bison, gamebirds, and waterfowl.

Some of the sculptures in the exhibition serve as a reminder of threatened species in need of protection, and proceeds from the sale of two works on loan are fundraisers for conservation organizations. The bison, once endangered, is the subject of a bas relief which will benefit the American Prairie Reserve. In support of the American Bird Conservancy, the regal bronze of three Whooping Cranes stands in silent testimony to a species that has suffered severe habitat loss and over-hunting. On loan from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, a bronze of a red knot pair draws attention to the subspecies endangered status due to the commercial over-harvesting of horseshoe crabs whose eggs are the birds' food source.

Some of Matia's artworks spring from an imagined title for an idea, and other sculpture titles are inspired by the completed three-dimensional form. A pair of ducks, having avoided the wingshooter in the blind and descending over cattails, are *Crossing to Safety*. The *International Harvester* an English pointer, stands on guard in a field of corn, rear left leg raised and tail stretched to the sky in a classic point, forever alerting hunters to the game beyond view. *Rewards of First Light*, a striking pair of wild turkeys captures the species'





habitual early morning movements. *No Country for Old Frogs* introduces a pair of herons, one head raised in a majestic silhouette and the other focused on the marshy surface, ready to strike for a tasty meal. At times whimsical and others serious, the sculptor's titles speak to his creativity and experience while afield.

Matia approaches his subjects through the lens of a lifetime of unrelenting curiosity. The fluidity with which he navigates through several different disciplines reflect his deep knowledge and experience.

As a sportsman, conservationist, and a biologist, he embraces the ethos that for field sports to be sustainable, ethical hunting practices and conservation of habitat are paramount. As a researcher, he has studied the works of 19th and early 20th century sculptors like Antoine-Louis Barye (French, 1795–1895), Rembrandt Bugatti (Italian, 1884–1916), François Pompon (French, 1855–1933), and most influentially, Albert Laessle (American, 1877–1954). As a sculptor, Matia is guided by a drive to classify, catalog, and capture his surroundings. His sculptures are his field notes: “If I make my audience feel the intention of those moments, then I am making an authentic effort to add to the canon of sporting art.” 🦋



Field Notes | Walter Matia is generously underwritten by Susan and John Mullin.

Opening to the public on June 18, 2021, the exhibition will be on display throughout the summer and fall, closing on January 9, 2022.

P. 9, top to bottom: Walter Matia (American, b. 1953) *A Point of Honor*, 2012, bronze, 14 x 20 x 12 inches, Collection of the artist; *Bison*, 2016, bronze, 34 x 44 inches, Collection of the artist. *P. 10, top to bottom:* *Rewards of First Light*, 2012, bronze, 46 x 56 x 17 inches, Collection of Mr. and Mrs. John Mullin; *The Tides that Bind*, 2011, bronze, 15 x 16 x 9 inches, Collection of the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation. *P. 11, left to right:* *No Country for Old Frogs* (detail), 2018, bronze, 41 x 18 x 14 inches, Collection of the artist *Crossing to Safety* (detail), 2017, bronze, 68 x 18 x 12 inches, Collection of the artist.

NSLM WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBER ALEXANDER N. VOGEL

Born in San Francisco, Alex spent his youth in Keswick, England in the Lake District, surrounded by the fells and the lakes of Northern England's rural heartland. The Lake District has been described as "5,000 people and 50,000 sheep." Growing up in the shadow of the John Peel Hunt/Blencathra Foxhounds instilled a love of the outdoors and rural village life. He attended the University of California at San Diego and law school at the George Washington University. He came to Washington, D.C. in the 1990s and practiced law at Wiley, Rein & Fielding before entering a career in government and politics. In addition to stints as Deputy Counsel to the Republican National Committee and General Counsel at the National Republican Senatorial Committee, Alex served as Chief Counsel to Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, before founding a series of successful government affairs consulting firms. He is currently the CEO of The Vogel Group.

Alex, his wife, Virginia Senator Jill Vogel, and their six children are landowners and subscribers of the Piedmont Foxhounds and live on Oak Spring Farm in Upperville, Virginia. In addition to fox hunting, Alex enjoys bird shooting and endurance race car driving. He is the co-owner and co-driver of the RSC Racing Porsche Cayman which competes in the Summit Racing/American Endurance Racing Series.

What initially attracted you to the National Sporting Library & Museum?

I have long admired the work and collections of the NSLM and was thrilled when Brad Bondi asked if I would be interested in getting more involved. I view it as an opportunity to expand on the work I have



done over the last few years to restore Oak Spring and its equine facilities which had been dormant since Paul Mellon's death in 1997. Bringing Mr. Mellon's Brick House and his original Hunter Barn back to life has been a joy not only to my family, but allowed us to make sure that this land and the sporting culture it represents are open and accessible for generations to come in this community.

What goals do you have for your tenure as a Board Member?

Most importantly, I want to contribute to the amazing culture of fiduciary stewardship that the Board has worked so hard to put in place. I am particularly interested in helping to make sure that the general public and broader sporting community understand the amazing collections and resources represented by the NSLM and its dedicated leadership and staff.

Please describe one of your fondest/favorite sporting memories.

I have been blessed with the opportunity to ride, hunt, and explore all over the world. While I am tempted to tell stories of my trips to Argentina chasing dove, I would have to say that chasing wild quail around the Texas and Oklahoma panhandles every year for the last decade are near the top of my list. That and the first PFH Thanksgiving Hunt here at Oak Spring after we started the renovation in 2015. To see the joy on people's faces as the hunt gathered in front of the Brick House for the first time in years was wonderful. 🍷

the journal

Recent news and updates from the Library & Museum

NEW MUSEUM OPENING HOURS

As vaccinations numbers rise and Covid-19 cases fall, the NSLM has moved into its second phase of reopening. The Museum is now open 10am–4:30pm on certain days of the week. Please see our website for specific details. We are committed to the safety of our staff, visitors, and volunteers and, as recommended by health officials, require everyone on campus to wear a face covering while visiting. The Museum, following state posted guidelines, can only operate at 50% capacity, so we strongly encourage all visitors to book their tickets in advance. Be on the lookout for expanded hours this summer!



You can book your tickets online or call 540-687-6542 x25 for assistance. 🐦

FUN WITH FLY-FISHING

We are celebrating the tranquility, beauty, and passion of fly-fishing this summer! The NSLM is host to the seventh annual International Fly-Fishing Film Festival® (IF4™) featuring eleven award winning films from across the globe showcasing the sport of fly-fishing. In-person showings will be limited to 30 people for August 28 with unlimited tickets available for the virtual showing on July 15. Admission to the film is \$10 for NSLM Members and \$20 for non-members; each ticket includes one raffle entry. Additional raffle entries can be purchased for \$10. Participants under 12 are free. Enter the raffle to win an Echo Rod, Airflo Fishing Line, and two General Admission NSLM Polo Classic tickets. The winner will be selected live during the August 28 showing. The IF4™ at the NSLM is sponsored by Orvis Leesburg/Tysons Corner.

On August 21, sip some craft beer from Old Ox Brewery and learn how to tie flies with Regal Vise pro-staffer and owner of Fiber Flies Dubbing, Jim Bensinger. Whether you are an experienced fly angler or have never tied a fly before, we will show how to tie nymphs, dry flies, and winged wet flies. Students will practice tying fundamentals such as thread control, attaching materials, wrapping materials, dubbing, hackling, and finishing the fly. This workshop is limited to 15 people, and supplies are provided. 🐦



DO YOU LOVE THE LIBRARY?

HELP US AT THE LIBRARY
INFORMATION DESK!



The Library houses over 20,000 books, periodicals and archive collections on foxhunting, horse racing, angling, equitation, wing shooting, and many other topics. The NSLM is searching for volunteers to help us open the Library to the public. Volunteers will be



trained to help with reference questions, find items in the Main Reading Room, process duplicate book sales, and give general information and history on the building.

Interested in volunteering?

Contact Valerie Peacock at VPeacock@NationalSporting.org or call 540-687-6542 x25. 🐦

Did you know?

All of our virtual programs are recorded and put online, so you can rewatch or catch up on something you missed any time you want!

Visit our YouTube channel (scan the QR code) to see all the available content.



OPEN LATE

Brought to you in part by:



Fri, Jul. 30, 6:00–8:00pm
Bryan Shepherd Country Band

Fri, Aug. 27, 6:00–8:00pm
Silver Tones Swing Band

The Open Late Concert Series is returning to the front lawn of the Museum this summer! This free event series features regional performers, local wine, beer from Lost Barrel Brewing, and delicious concessions from local food vendors.

Come explore the Town of Middleburg with a scavenger hunt for all ages and interact with local nonprofits and businesses at this community staple.



The National Sporting Library & Museum wishes to thank and recognize our corporate, individual, and foundation supporters whose donations were received between April 1, 2020 and April 1, 2021 and our members whose renewals were received between April 1, 2020 and April 1, 2021. These contributions form the foundation of financial support for the NSLM's operations. We are grateful for gifts at all levels and thank our many donors and friends.

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ENDNOTES



Ruini, Carlo, *Anatomia del cavallo, infermita, et suoi rimedii*, Fioravante Prati, 1598. Gift of Mrs. Jacqueline B. Mars.

Highlighted here is the recent acquisition of the first edition rare book, *Anatomia del cavallo, infermita, et suoi rimedii*, published in Bologna, Italy in 1598. First released two months after his death, it was written by noted 16th century Italian anatomist Carlo Ruini (1530–1598). The title of the volume loosely translates to “the anatomy of the horse, diseases, and treatments.” The oversized work was transformative. It was the first treatise on animal anatomy other than human and become the vanguard of horse veterinary care, scholarship, and science for two centuries. It is its anatomical section that is most significant. Organized into five separate sections, it covers the head and brain, neck and chest, abdomen, generative parts, and muscles and skeleton. The book is especially known for its well drafted woodcut images of horse anatomy. While the artist is unknown, the images are heavily influenced by human anatomical works published in the decades before, especially Andreas Vesalius’ *De Humani Corporis Fabrica* (1543).

The addition of this highly scarce work to the Library collections was made possible through the generosity of Mrs. Jacqueline B. Mars. 🐾



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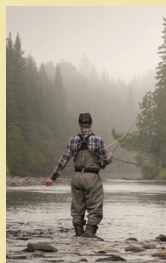
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Saturday, July 10



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Saturday, August 28



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